AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of the claims. Please cancel claims 9 to 15 and 20 without prejudice, add new claim 22, and amend claims 17 and 21 as follows:

Claim 1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the surface of the refractory material is heated by the laser radiation to at least 2000°C.

3. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein a power density of 2 to 4 W per mm^2 is introduced into the surface.

4. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the treatment with the laser radiation is carried out with an effective exposure time of 0.1 to 5 s.

5. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17 wherein the surface is treated using a laser beam with a scan rate of 1-10 mm/s, while the laser beam on the surface has a diameter of 2-5 mm.

6. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein a laser beam with a wavelength in the range of 9 to 11 µm is used.

7. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein a CO_2 laser is used.

8. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the surface is sprayed with a powder or a solution before or during the treatment with the laser radiation, or the ceramic body is infiltrated with a solution that contains the zirconium-containing and/or aluminium-containing compounds.

Claims 9 to 16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method of treating refractory material of a Danner blowpipe or a drawing die that comes into contact with a glass melt during glass production, wherein said refractory material has a composition comprising Al_2O_3, SiO_2, ZrO_2 and another oxide, wherein said another oxide is ~~and/or~~ MgO or CrO and said refractory material is composed of fireclay, silimanite bricks, zirconium and zirconium-containing bricks, and/or fusion-cast bricks, said method comprising the steps of:

a) treating [[only]] a surface of the refractory material only with laser radiation so as to form a surface layer that is a closed vitreous layer on said surface, said closed vitreous layer containing components that are components of the refractory material; and

b) after the treating of the surface of the refractory material with the laser radiation, tempering the refractory material.

18. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein the surface layer has a thickness of 100 to 1000 μm.

19. (previously presented) The method as recited in Claim 17, wherein zirconium-containing and/or aluminium-containing compounds are located in the surface layer.

Claim 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein prior to contact with the glass melt said surface is treated with said laser radiation to form said [[a]] closed vitreous layer[[,]] ~~components of which are components of the refractory material~~.

22. (new) A method of manufacturing and/or processing a glass melt, said method comprising bringing the glass melt into contact with a surface of a refractory material composed of Al_2O_3, SiO_2, ZrO_2 and another oxide, wherein said another oxide is MgO or CrO, wherein said surface of the refractory material has been treated only with laser radiation in order to form a surface layer that is a closed vitreous layer on said surface, said closed vitreous layer containing components that are components of the refractory material;

wherein the refractory material is composed of fireclay, silimanite bricks, zirconium and zirconium-containing bricks, and/or fusion-cast bricks.